

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05403 041602Z
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UNCLAS GENEVA 5403

DEPARTMENT FOR OFFICE OF THE PRESS SPOKESMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW), ECOSOC, UN
SUBJECT: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS TO THE PRESS UPON ARRIVAL IN GENEVA

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A BRIEF EXCHANGE WITH
REPORTERS AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG UPON HIS ARRIVAL AT
COINTRIN AIRPORT, GENEVA, THIS MORNING.

Q: I BELIEVE YOU HAVE A SHORT STATEMENT.

A: JUST THAT IT'S GOOD TO BE HERE. WE HAD A VERY NICE
TRIP AND WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO CELEBRATING THE FOURTH
OF JULY HERE IN GENEVA. I UNDERSTAND THIS IS ONE OF THE
BIGGEST CELEBRATIONS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. SO -- THAT'S ABOUT IT.

Q: WHAT WOULD YOU ANTICIPATE, MR. YOUNG, FOR THE ECOSOC
SESSION?

A: I'M NOT SURE. I'M REALLY HERE AS A BEGINNER AND THE
MEETINGS HERE ARE REALLY KIND OF LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND SO WE'LL BE HERE FOR AT LEAST THREE WEEKS.
AND IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY, REALLY, TO GET TO KNOW WHAT THE
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 05403 041602Z

CRITICAL ISSUES ARE THAT FACE SO MANY OTHER NATIONS AND JUST
WHAT THE U.S. CAN DO TO ASSIST IN MEETING SOME OF THE SOCIAL
AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE REST OF THE WORLD.

Q: WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OUR VERY GOOD FRIEND, BRADY TYSON,
SINCE THE LAST HUMAN RIGHTS SESSION HERE?

A: OH, BRADY'S DOING VERY WELL. HE'S IN NEW YORK. I GUESS HE WILL NOT BE COMING HERE, BUT HE'S STILL VERY MUCH A PART OF OUR STAFF AND DOING AN OUTSTANDING JOB.

Q: JUST ONE OTHER QUESTION. WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS -- YOU'VE COME MORE OR LESS STRAIGHT FROM WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK -- WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR THE ILO; YOU KNOW THIS SITUATION OF THE US PERHAPS WITHDRAWING.

A: I'LL TELL YOU: THERE'S A CABINET-LEVEL COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BE MEETING TO ASSESS THAT. THAT DECISION IS BOTH A GOVERNMENT AND LABOR AND MANAGEMENT DECISION. I WAS VERY ENCOURAGED AT THE DETERMINATION ON THE PART OF MOST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CABINET TO REMAIN A PART OF ILO. I'M NOT SURE THAT THAT'S THE SITUATION WITH THE OTHER TWO AGENCIES BUT I JUST DON'T KNOW; I HAVEN'T REALLY TALKED TO THEM.

Q: DO YOU EXPECT TO SEE ANY OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WHILE YOU'RE HERE.

A: YES, WE DO.

Q: WHICH ONES?

A: WELL, WE'LL PROBABLY BE MEETING WITH JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY HERE AND WILL PROBABLY MAKE A BRIEF SIDE-TRIP TO VIENNA TO SEE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 05403 041602Z

SOME OF THE OTHERS AND TO PARIS TO SEE UNESCO AND ROME TO SEE THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM AND FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION.

Q: ARE YOU GOING TO BE MAKING ANY HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENTS TO ECOSOC?

A: A GENERAL STATEMENT AS PART OF THE GENERAL DEBATE IN ECOSOC LATER ON IN THE WEEK, I GUESS -- FRIDAY. BUT I THINK I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT LISTENING AND LEARNING THAN SPEAKING, FRANKLY.

Q: YOU'LL CERTAINLY NOT BE DISAPPOINTED AS FAR AS LISTENING IS CONCERNED AT ECOSOC. (LAUGHTER)

A: WELL IT'S MY FIRST TIME AROUND, SO IT REALLY IS INTERESTING. MAYBE, IF I'D BEEN COMING HERE AS LONG AS BOB KITCHEN HAS, I MIGHT BE TIRED OF IT, BUT FOR ME IT'S A GREAT DEAL OF EXCITEMENT.

Q: THANK YOU, SIR. END TEXT. SORENSON

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